

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **24 March 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-29. Claims 1-6, 10-14, 15-20, and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rajwar et al (*Speculative Lock Elision*: ACM/IEEE International Symposium; Dec. 2001, hereinafter “Rajwar”) and further in view of Jim Gray (*The Transaction Concept: Virtues and Limitations*, hereinafter “Gray”). Claims 7-9 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rajwar, Gray, and Microsoft Computer Dictionary (Fifth edition, published in 2002, hereinafter “MCD”), and further in view of Gaskins et al (USPN 6,618,311, hereinafter “Gaskins”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 15, and 29 were rejected as being unpatentable over Rajwar and further in view of Gray. Applicant respectfully points out that Rajwar teaches eliding a lock-acquire operation and speculatively executing a critical section of code (see Rajwar page 294, column 1, paragraph 2). The invention of Rajwar is “implemented entirely in microarchitecture, *without instruction set support and without system-level modifications...*” (see Rajwar page 295, column 2, Point 3). In order to elide a lock-acquire operation, the invention of Rajwar observes “load and store **sequences** and the values read and to be written” (see Rajwar page 297, column 2, paragraph 2). This involves looking for a **specific pattern of instructions** (see Rajwar, page 297, column 2, paragraph 2; and page 298, column 1, paragraph 1 – Point 1 of algorithm for SLE). Hence, looking at a store instruction **by itself does not** indicate whether a lock-acquire operation can be elided.

The invention of Rajwar then **predicts** that the memory operations in the critical section will occur atomically and enters a speculative execution mode to execute the critical section (see Rajwar page 298, column 1, steps 1-5). During

this speculative execution mode, memory accesses are monitored to determine whether or not an interfering memory access has occurred (see Rajwar page 298, section 3.4).

In contrast, the present invention elides a lock by *explicitly executing* a start transaction execution instruction before entering a critical section (see paragraph [0011] and [0060] of the instant application). Since a transaction is explicitly entered, indicating that the critical section is to be executed atomically, no prediction is required.

During the transactional execution mode, the present invention monitors store-marked cache lines to determine if an interfering memory access has occurred (see paragraphs [0012] and [0063] of the instant application). A cache line becomes store-marked when the present invention encounters a store instruction that indicates that the cache line should be store-marked (see paragraph [0096] of the instant application). Prior to store-marking a cache line, the present invention determines whether the store instruction is a monitored store instruction or an unmonitored store instruction by **analyzing the store instruction** (see paragraphs [0083]-[0085], [0087], and [0095]-[0096] of the instant application). If the store instruction is a monitored store instruction, the present invention store-marks the cache line (see paragraph [0096] of the instant application).

Note that analysis of the store instruction can include: (1) determining whether the store operation is directed to a heap, (2) examining a data structure associated with the store operation to determine if the data structure is a protected data structure for which stores need to be monitored, (3) examining the op code for the store instruction, and (4) examining an address associated with the store instruction to determine whether the address falls within a range of addresses for which stores are monitored (see paragraphs [0083]-[0085], [0087], and [0095]-[0096] of the instant application). In all cases, the store instruction **itself** is monitored. **No other instructions** are monitored to determine if the store instruction is a monitored store instruction.

There is nothing within Rajwar or Gray, either separately or in concert, which suggests eliding a lock by (1) *explicitly executing a start transaction execution instruction*, (2) encountering a store instruction during transactional execution, (3) determining whether the store instruction is a monitored store instruction or an unmonitored store instruction by *analyzing the store instruction*, and (4) if the store instruction is a monitored store instruction, performing the store operation and store-marking a cache line associated with the store instruction.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, and 29 to clarify that the present invention determines whether the store instruction is a monitored store instruction or an unmonitored store instruction by **analyzing the store instruction**. These amendments find support in paragraphs [0083]-[0085], [0087], and [0095]-[0096] of the instant application.

Applicant has also amended claims 6 and 7 to insert the word “wherein.” No new matter has been added to claims 6 and 7.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 15, and 29 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-14, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 16-28, which depend upon claim 15, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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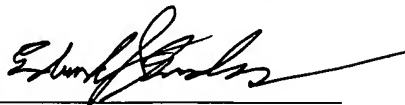
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CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

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